



## Board of Directors

September 18, 2020

Greg Cole, Chair  
*Express Automotive Group*

Bill Seidmeyer, Vice Chair  
*Allied Lube, Inc.*

Charles Ray, Treasurer  
*DEKRA America*

Brian Newton,  
*Take 5 Oil Change*

Louis Church  
*Kwik Kar Owners Group,  
North Texas*

Richard Paek  
*Allied Lube, Inc.*

Sergio Fernandez  
*Kwik Kar Owners Group,  
Houston*

The Honorable Terry Canales  
Chairman, House Transportation Committee  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Chairman Canales and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of the Texas State Inspection Association (TSIA), which represents the 11,000 vehicle inspection station owners in the state of Texas, to address Interim Charge 2.

*Interim Charge 2: Study the state's transportation and road safety efforts in support of the Texas Transportation Commission's goal of ending traffic deaths in the state by 2050. Identify the most dangerous roads and transportation corridors in the state and determine opportunities to reduce high rates of traffic accidents and fatalities in these areas. Make recommendations to improve policies, funding strategies, program development, and agency coordination to ensure continuous improvements to road safety.*

We commend the Commission for their continued focus on reducing the number of traffic fatalities in the state of Texas. Texas leads the country in the number of traffic fatalities on our roadways, higher than any other state in the country, and we must all do what we can to end the streak of traffic-related deaths on our highways.

In order to fully address this issue, however, the safety of the vehicles themselves must also be taken into account. Bad brakes and bald tires are the two largest contributors of vehicle safety related crashes in the state, and should be taken into account in any effort to reduce fatalities to zero by 2050.



#### **Board of Directors**

Greg Cole, Chair  
*Express Automotive Group*

Bill Seidmeyer, Vice Chair  
*Allied Lube, Inc.*

Charles Ray, Treasurer  
*DEKRA America*

Brian Newton,  
*Take 5 Oil Change*

Louis Church  
*Kwik Kar Owners Group,  
North Texas*

Richard Paek  
*Allied Lube, Inc.*

Sergio Fernandez  
*Kwik Kar Owners Group,  
Houston*

The Committee should consider forming a multi-agency Vision Zero taskforce, including all agencies that have a role in overseeing programs that could reduce traffic fatalities, including DPS, through their oversight of the vehicle safety inspection program.

Vehicles have become more sophisticated over the years through technological advances, but yet none of those added components have been added to a vehicle safety inspection in the state of Texas, including air bags, anti-lock brake systems, and tire pressure monitoring systems. These components need to be added to a vehicle safety inspection to ensure that as consumers take the time to get their vehicle inspected annually, they are ensured, when they drive away from that inspection, that their vehicle is the safest that it can be and all safety components on the vehicle are functioning properly.

As autonomous vehicles become more prevalent, Texas inspection laws will have to be updated to include the various sensors on the vehicle that will ensure it is driving safely, in addition to tire tread and brake systems. As autonomous vehicles become more common, these two basic aspects of the vehicle safety inspection, ensuring tires and brakes are functioning properly, will become that much more critical.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide this testimony, on behalf of the Texas State Inspection Association, on Interim Charge 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brandi Bird'.

Brandi Bird, Deputy Executive Director  
Texas State Inspection Association